

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT Revolutionary Vigilance and the
Fight Against Agents in the SED

1. The directive ordering the purge of Merker and his group has not produced the results which the Politburo and the Central Committee thought it would bring forth. This should be attributed to the circumstance that inner-party discussions concerning the directive were overshadowed by preparations for the October election. In connection with the exchange of membership books the discussion will be resumed. Merker's appointment as manager of a HO restaurant in Eberswalde (sic)* has caused resentment among SED functionaries and numerous resolutions have been addressed to the Politburo protesting his release.* *
2. Many instances have been noted where Party units confined themselves to citing extracts from the Central Committee's resolution concerning Paul Merker, rather than drawing from it an impulse for independent investigations of possible agent activities within their own units and plants.***
3. The forthcoming exchange of membership books has already generated a feeling of panic among Party members. This misunderstanding of the measure has been fostered by threats expressed by functionaries who have been telling Party members that they would be ousted unless they perform certain duties with expedition. The ZPKK wants the investigation to be conducted in the manner of a cordial conversation rather than that of a tribunal.****

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Comment: Paul Werker has been previously reported as working in a HO restaurant in Luckenwalde. See [redacted]

Comment: It is unlikely, however, that the decision of the Politburo will be reversed in deference to these protests.

Comment. The ZPKK had counted on a sizeable increase in the denunciation of alleged agents. This apparently failed to materialize.

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*** [] Comment. The investigation, as planned, is geared to identify and render impotent, dissident groups within the SED, such as followers of the Fischer-Maslow group, Brandler, Thalheimer, the ISK (founded in 1924 by Leonhard Nelson), the SAP, the Lenin Bund, the KPC and Luxemburgians. Beginning November 1950, the head of the History Department of the Karl Marx Academy, Erich Paterna, received instructions from the Politbüro to prepare a lengthy study of the historical role of Ernst Thaelmann with special emphasis on the damage inflicted upon the KPD by the groups and factions that separated from it before 1933.

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[] Comment. See also Max Sens' article on the composition of the Party commissions charged with the exchange of membership books, Neues Deutschland, 5 January 1951, page 4.

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